

REMARKS

This paper responds to the final Office action dated April 16, 2010, in which (i) an objection was made to the specification, (ii) claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, (iii) claims 1-8, 11-14, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 or 103, and (iv) claims 9, 10, 15, and 17-20 were found allowable in substance.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification are respectfully requested, insofar as the subject matter at issue has been removed from the claims. Claim 1, as amended, no longer specifies that inner and outer surfaces are “sufficiently continuous to maintain flow over the inner and outer surfaces ... without flow through the limb.” The applicants accordingly submit that the objection is now moot in view of the amendments to the claims.

I. Summary of Amendments

With the foregoing amendments, claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled, and claims 21-26 have been added, leaving claims 1-13 and 16-26 pending and at issue.

Claim 1 has been amended to remove limitations added by the previous response regarding maintaining flow over inner and outer surfaces, as well as to specify that each limb has a forward edge and a rearward edge, with inner and outer surfaces of each limb extending between the forward and rearward edges, and with each of the inner and outer surfaces being continuous over its entire length between the forward and rearward edges.

The specification has been amended to provide word-for-word antecedent support for the amendments to claim 1. No new matter has been added by these amendments, as support can be found, for example, in Figure 1.

Claim 1 has also been amended to incorporate the recitation of now-cancelled claim 15. Claim 20 has been amended to attend to an informality.

Claim 9 has been amended to clarify the recitation of a pair of substantially straight limbs and a loop. The applicants accordingly request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claim 9 has also been amended to clarify a V-shape as viewed in a bow-to-stern direction. No new matter has been added by this amendment, as support can be found, for example, at page 6, lines 11-15, of the application.

New claims 21-26 are directed to the recitations of allowable claims 9, 10, and 17-20. Specifically, allowable claim 9 (as clarified) has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 21, incorporating all of the limitations of its base claim (claim 1). Allowable claims 10, 17, and 19 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 22, 23, and 25, respectively, incorporating all of the limitations of their base claim (claim 1). New claims 24 and 26 depend from new independent claims 23 and 25, respectively, and correspond with the subject matter of allowable claims 18 and 20 (as amended). For these reasons, the applicants accordingly submit that new claims 21-26 are in condition for allowance.

II. Interview Summary

The applicants thank the examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview conducted on June 29, 2010, during which the foregoing amendments to the claims were proposed to overcome the objection to the specification and the art-based rejections. While no agreement was reached as to the allowance of the claims, the examiner indicated that the claim language regarding the nature of the limb surfaces (“continuous over its entire length between the forward and rearward edges”) would not be considered new matter.

III. Responses to Claim Rejections

Claims 1-8, 11-13, and 16 stand rejected under either 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections because claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the recitation of allowable claim 15 (now-cancelled). It follows that each of claims 1-8, 11-13, and 16 is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited art.

IV. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that all pending claims 1-13 and 16-26 are in condition for allowance, and an indication to that effect is solicited. Should the examiner wish to

discuss the foregoing or any matter of form in an effort to advance this application toward allowance, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Dated: July 15, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By /G. Christopher Braidwood/
G. Christopher Braidwood
Registration No. 41,631
LEMPIA BRAIDWOOD LLC
One North LaSalle Street, Suite 3150
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 291-0860
Attorney for Applicant